

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 472**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Blumenfield**

February 24, 2009

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An act to add Section 8596.5 to the Government Code, relating to disaster preparedness.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 472, as introduced, Blumenfield. Disaster preparedness.

Existing law, the California Emergency Services Act, requires the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to be responsible for the state's emergency and disaster response services, and requires state entities to cooperate with Cal EMA in carrying out its duties.

This bill would, beginning on July 1, 2010, require any state entity that publishes an Internet Web site to prominently display on the homepage of that Internet Web site the phrase "Preparing for Disasters" that links a user to an Internet Web page created and maintained by Cal EMA, in consultation with the Seismic Safety Commission, that provides specified information regarding earthquake preparedness for the home and workplace.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2     following:

1 (a) January 17, 2009 marked the 15th anniversary of the  
2 Northridge Earthquake that resulted in the deaths of 57 people,  
3 12,000 injuries, damage to 100,000 structures, and up to \$40 billion  
4 in losses.

5 (b) Experts predict there is a high likelihood that there will be  
6 another earthquake in southern California of equal or greater  
7 magnitude as the Northridge Earthquake in the next 30 years.

8 (c) Understanding potential risks, practicing responses, and  
9 being prepared with an action plan for before, during, and after a  
10 disaster can make a significant difference in reducing or eliminating  
11 major losses of life and property.

12 (d) The largest local earthquake drill involving more than five  
13 million people in southern California on November 13, 2008, found  
14 significant gaps in earthquake preparedness planning and a need  
15 for ongoing disaster preparedness education for the public.

16 (e) The local Valley Public Response for Emergency  
17 Preparedness Task Force established in the San Fernando Valley  
18 is working to identify valley-specific issues that can be addressed  
19 through quake preparedness planning.

20 (f) Providing links on all state agency Internet Web sites would  
21 make it easier for Californians to access earthquake preparedness  
22 information and promote awareness of steps that can be taken  
23 before, during, and after major earthquakes to promote safety for  
24 individuals and communities.

25 SEC. 2. Section 8596.5 is added to the Government Code, to  
26 read:

27 8596.5. (a) Any state entity that publishes an Internet Web  
28 site shall prominently display on the homepage of that Internet  
29 Web site the phrase "Preparing for Disasters" that links a user to  
30 the Internet Web page described in subdivision (b).

31 (b) The California Emergency Management Agency, in  
32 consultation with the Seismic Safety Commission, shall create and  
33 maintain an Internet Web page that a state entity can link to, as  
34 required by subdivision (a), that provides all of the following:

35 (1) Information regarding earthquake preparedness for the home  
36 and workplace.

37 (2) Guides and other publications regarding earthquake  
38 preparedness for the home and workplace.

39 (3) Links to other Internet resources for earthquake preparedness  
40 for the home and workplace.

- 1     (c) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2010.

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